

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 17 has been changed as follows:

In the state of the art, metal oxide powder combinations have been studied as follows.

M. Moskovits, B.G. Ravi and R. Chaim, in NanoStructured Materials, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 19-
185 179-185, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein, studied a
bimodal powder whose nano-component had an average particle size of 10 nm and whose
base component had an average particle size of 430 nm. With a size ratio of both components
of over 40, and especially with such a fine nano-component, the production of a
homogeneous powder mixture with an acceptable amount of technical effort is only possible
to a limited extent. Assuming an ideal spherical shape of the base component, the
optimization of the packing density can only be achieved by large agglomerates of the
nanoscale component, as a result of which a nano-component is no longer present in actual
fact.